

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 ISO-00 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6901

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USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 3461

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS

SUBJ: KOREA IN 30TH UNGA

REFS: A) STATE 240655

B) STATE 243312 (USUN 4956)

C) STATE 225930

D) YAOUNDE 3365

E) YAOUNDE 3439

1. ACCOMPANIED BY DCM, I SAW MINISTER IN CHARGE OF MISSIONS AT PRESIDENCY FRANCOIS SENGAT KUO OCTOBER 14 PRIMARILY TO MAKE DEMARCHE ON KOREA AS PER REFS A, B, AND C. LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE AND TEXT OF REVISED FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. COVERED ALSO, IN SAME MANNER AS REPORTED REF D, GENERAL SUBJECT OF UNIVERSALITY OF UN MEMBERSHIP AND PARALLELS TO GERMAN SITUATION PRIOR TO ADMISSION BOTH STATES TO UN.

2. RE ADMISSION TO UN, SENGAT KUO MERELY SAID CAMEROON SUPPORTS PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY, BUT ALSO HARBORS NO ILLUSIONS AND RECOGNIZES NUANCED REALITIES OF SITUATION. AS BASIC GOAL FOR KOREA, CAMEROON WISHES PROMOTE PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION. RE UP-COMING KOREAN ISSUE IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SENGAT KUO COMMENTED THAT CAMEROON'S POSITION ON ISSUE HAS BEEN NUANCED (A FAVORITE
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EXPRESSION), THAT AS MEMBER OF NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, IT SEES

MORAL VALUE OF SUPPORTING NON-ALIGNED POSITIONS WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT EACH MEMBER COUNTRY OF NAC HAS ITS OWN INTERESTS AND IMPERATIVES. CAMEROON, FOR ITS PART, MAINTAINS RELATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA, AS WITH NORTH, AND RECOGNIZES SOUTH KOREA'S PERCEPTION OF ITS NEED FOR FOREIGN TROOP PRESENCE. HE RECOUNTED THAT CAMEROON HAD ABSTAINED IN LAST YEAR'S UNGA VOTES ON KOREAN ISSUES, AND SO FAR HE HAS SEEN NO SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND NO NEW FACTS TO SUGGEST REASON FOR CHANGING GURC'S POSITION AT THIS TIME. EXPLAINED THAT GURC FONMIN HAD JUST RETURNED TO CAMEROON LATE LAST WEEK FROM UNGA, THAT HE HIMSELF HAD BEEN OUT OF TOWN AND HAD NOT YET TALKED WITH FONMIN, THAT THEY WOULD CERTAINLY BE MEETING SOON TO DISCUSS GURC POSITION PRIOR TO OCTOBER 21 UNGA CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM.

3. IN RESPONSE TO SENGAT KUO'S EVALUATION OF "NO CHANGE" IN SITUATION FROM LAST YEAR, WE RESTRESSED CONSTRUCTIVE ASPECTS OF REVISED FRIENDLY RES AND OBNOXIOUS FEATURES OF HOSTILE RES, BUT DREW NO SUBSTANTIVE REACTION. WE ALSO MENTIONED CONSPONSORSHIP BY FRANCE AND NEIGHBORING GABON AND CAR, AS WELL AS LIBERIA AND GAMBIA WHICH, LIKE GURC, HAVE RELATIONS WITH BOTH KOREAS. NONE OF THIS DREW FLICKER OF RESPONSE. IT FAIRLY CLEAR, IN SUM, THAT SENGAT KUO, WHO DID NOT LET HIMSELF BE DRAWN OUT ON QUESTION OF MAINTAINING NORMAL PRIORITY FOR FRIENDLY RES, WAS STILL SIGNALING A LIKELY GURC POSITION OF ABSTAINING AT LEAST ON THE VOTES ON THE TWO RESOLUTIONS THEMSELVES. BUT TYPICALLY HE LEFT OPTIONS OPEN FOR ANY CHANGE BY CAREFULLY USING PHRASE "AT THIS TIME".

4. ON OCTOBER 15, WE TRANSFORMED MY INTRODUCTORY "COURTESY CALL" ON FONMIN JEAN KEUTCHA, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM UNGA, LARGELY INTO DISCUSSION ON KOREA. KEUTCHA ARTICULATEDLY REFERRED TO BASIC GURC STANCE IN FAVOR OF PEACEFUL RPT PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF KOREA, ITS RELATIONS WITH BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH IN SUPPORT OF THIS GOAL AND AS CONSTRICTING FACTOR IN ITS POSITION-TAKING. HE ALLUDED TO EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS BY BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA IN UN AND IN CAPITALS TO GAIN SUPPORT. DESCRIBED THE WHOLE PLAY GOING ON IN UN CONTEXT AS INTRICATE "STRATEGY" (MEANING TACTICAL MANEUVERS) BY BOTH SIDES. KEUTCHA ALSO REFERRED TO GURC STRATEGY, IN CORRECT SENSE OF TERM, AND I POINTED TO DANGER OF LETTING STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES ON WHICH US AND GURC LARGELY AGREED (E.G., UNIVERSALITY, PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION) BE SUBVERTED BY TACTICAL

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PROCEDURAL MANEUVERING. IN THIS CONTEXT I PRAISED HIS UNGA SPEECH REFERENCE TO GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE, WHICH ALSO CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF US POLICY, AND POINTED TO INTERDEPENDENCE OF GURC STRATEGY AND TACTICS ON RELATED ISSUES, AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING US-CAMEROONIAN RELATIONS. RE SPECIFICS OF KOREAN QUESTION, KEUTCHA SAID:

(A) CAMEROON WOULD FAVOR SIMULTANEOUS ADMISSION OF BOTH KOREAS

TO UN IF RPT IF THEY BOTH EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE FOR THIS. SINCE THIS WAS NOT THE CASE, AND CAMEROON KNEW FROM OWN EXPERIENCE PROBLEMS OF PEACEFULLY REUNITING PARTS OF A DIVIDED COUNTRY, CAMEROON HAD ABSTAINED THROUGHOUT ON ADMISSION ISSUE.

(B) NORTH KOREANS HAD ASKED CAMEROON TO CO-SPONSOR PRO-NORTH KOREAN RES AT UNGA. CAMEROON HAD REFUSED, SINCE IT WANTED TO BE ABLE TO RETAIN ITS ABILITY TO JUDGE AND ACT OBJECTIVELY AND IMPARTIALLY.

(C) RE PROCEDURAL QUESTION OF WHICH RESOLUTION SHOULD BE ACCORDED PRIORITY, CAMEROON RESPECTED UN CHARTER AND RULES, AND RECOGNIZED NORMAL PRINCIPLE THAT RES INTRODUCED FIRST BE CONSIDERED FIRST. IN ANSWER TO OUR FOLLOW-THROUGH QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THIS MEANT THAT CAMDEL WOULD SUPPORT PRIORITY OF CONSIDERATION FOR FRIENDLY RES, KEUTCHA CAREFULLY EXPLAINED THAT CAMDEL WOULD OBJECTIVELY EXAMINE IN THE ACTUAL SETTING ANY CLAIMS AND COUNTERCLAIMS ABOUT FACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF ISSUE ABOUT PRIORITY, AND THEN ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS INSTRUCTION TO RESPECT UN RULES.

5. COMMENT: OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT CAMEROON WILL HOLD TO PRESENT INCLINATION TOWARD ABSTAINING ON BOTH RESOLUTIONS. (BUT THERE REMAINS DANGER THAT GURC COULD DECIDE TO "THINK POSITIVE" AND VOTE FOR BOTH RESES.) CAMEROON MIGHT VOTE AGAINST MOVE TO ACCORD PRIORITY TO HOSTILE RES, BUT FROM OUR LIMITED PERSPECTIVE IN YAOUNDE, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT CAMDEL WILL FIND PROCEDURAL ISSUE NUANCED ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY ABSTENTION ON THE SUBJECT TOO. HOPEFULLY, IT WILL NOT BE PULLED ENOUGH BY NON-ALIGNED CURRENTS TO VOTE FOR PRIORITY TO HOSTILE RES. IN THIS CONNECTION, IF EMBASSY TO BE OPTIMALLY HELPFUL SHOULD TIME PERMIT CONTRIBUTION FROM THIS END, IT IMPORTANT FOR DEPT AND/OR USUN TO FEED US THE FACTS AND THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ARGUMENTS, BOTH PRO AND CON RPT CON, ON ISSUE OF PRIORITY (THIS HAS NOT YET BEEN DONE), AND
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